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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/51/751)]

51/220. Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1998-1999

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit in off-budget years an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1] the related recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[2] and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

1. Reaffirms that the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 shall contain an indication of:

(a) A preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) The size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

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[1] A/51/289.

[2] A/51/16 (Parts I and II); see Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 16.

[3] A/51/720.

2. Also reaffirms that the outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium, promote a greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process and thereby facilitate the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

3. Takes note of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[2] and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[3]

4. Invites the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 on the basis of a total preliminary estimate of 2,512 million United States dollars at initial 1996-1997 rates, recosted to 2,480 million dollars at revised 1996-1997 rates;

5. Decides that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate at 1998-1999 rates, namely at 19 million dollars;

6. Also decides that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 shall contain provisions for recosting on the basis of the existing methodology;

7. Further decides that the preliminary estimate of resources for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 does not include a provision for special missions for which there are no legislative mandates;

8. Decides that the priorities for the biennium 1998-1999 are the following:

(a) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit, in the context of his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, the following information:

(a) Outputs deferred, postponed or curtailed in 1996-1997 and their disposition in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999;

(b) Number of posts for the biennium by section and by category;

(c) Proposed vacancy rate for the Professional and the General Service categories for budgetary purposes;

10. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive policy paper which will examine all issues related to the question of all additional expenditures referred to in paragraphs 10 and 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213, including those relating to the maintenance of peace and security, inflation and currency fluctuation, and to submit that report to the Assembly, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, no later than 31 May 1997 with a view to finding a comprehensive solution to such questions.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996